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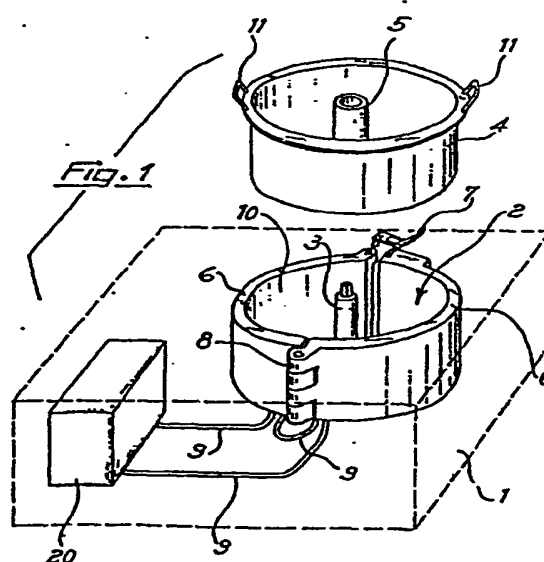
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(54) Ice-cream machine with removable vessel.

(57) The invention relates to an ice-cream machine, in particular for family use, of the type having a vessel wherein the ice-cream is made, which is removable from the machine body. To allow for a good thermal exchange, the machine has a vessel container which is divided into two or more parts, each one comprising cooling coils, said parts being resiliently kept in close contact with the vessel walls in a loosenable manner.



EP 0 129 706 A2

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The present invention relates to an ice-cream machine particularly for family use with a vessel removable from the ice-cream machine body.

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More in detail, the present invention relates to an ice-cream machine of the aforementioned type showing a new configuration and means reciprocal disposition capable of providing the ice-cream machine itself with a new and higher usefulness as well as particular working efficiency in comparison with the ice-cream
10 machines for family use known up to now.

In the ice-cream machines for family use, the possibility of removing the vessel from the ice-cream machine body presents the considerable advantage of simplifying both the operation of removing ice-cream from the mixing container and the operations
15 of cleaning the container itself.

In fact, particularly after the preparation of ice-creams rich in fat substances, the mixing tank must be washed accurately and the possibility of removing the vessel from the ice-cream machine body allows the use of an abundant jet of hot
20 water, which is ideal for dissolving and eliminating ice-cream residues from the vessel walls.

The possibility of removing the vessel from the ice-cream machine body, however, involves some problems for the technician in the art; in particular it raises the problem of cold
25 transmission between the walls of the vessel container, which are in contact with the evaporator coil of the refrigerating circuit, and the vessel itself.

In fact, considering the impossibility of having a vessel which fits without any clearance in the ice-cream machine bo-
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1 dy and which is at the same time easily removable, unless the
vessel and the ice-cream machine body undergo very expensive
preparation processes, it is impossible to avoid, between the
vessel and its container, which is integral to the ice-cream machine body, the
formation of hollow spaces in which an ice layer tends to form du-
ring the ice-cream machine operation.

Said ice layer strongly limits cold transmission between
the evaporator coil integral to the vessel container and the
vessel itself, thus causing considerable delay in ice-cream
preparation. In particular, considering the reduced capacity
10 of the refrigerating circuit in these ice-cream machines for
family use, due to their necessarily very limited size and
cost, said difficulty in cold transmission may in some cases
even prevent the formation of ice-cream.

Furthermore, at the end of the steps for ice-cream prepara-
15 tion, said ice layer hinders an easy removal of the vessel, which
remains blocked in the ice-cream machine body with subsequent
loss of some of the advantages related to said possibility
of removing the vessel itself.

The solution of leaving a hollow space between the vessel
20 and the ice-cream machine body and of filling said hollow spa-
ce with an antifreezing brine presents the advantages of making
the vessel removal easier and of preventing the formation of
the ice layer between the vessel and its container, but it
involves some inconveniences as well, such as the need of provi-
25 ding a perfect sealing between the vessel container bottom and
the driving shaft of the mixing blades, as well as the need of
pouring into the container the exact amount of brine having
the correct concentration and of eliminating said brine from the
container when all the steps for ice-cream preparation are over.

An object of the present invention is to propose an ice-cream machine for family use with a removable vessel, which allows to overcome the aforementioned drawbacks, obtaining in particular an efficient cold transmission between the evaporator coils and the vessel and allowing at the same time an easy removal of the vessel from the ice-cream machine body once ice-cream has formed.

Said object is achieved by means of an ice-cream machine for family use with a vessel removable from the ice-cream machine body, wherein the walls of the vessel container are formed by at least two different parts, each one comprising a portion of the evaporator coil of the refrigerating circuit, and wherein said different parts are kept in close contact with the side walls of the vessel by elastic means which can be loosened.

In particular, each part forming the vessel container consists of an aluminium element in which a portion of the evaporator coil of the refrigerating circuit is buried or placed.

Main advantages of the ice-cream machine according to the invention are to allow an excellent cohesion between the vessel container walls and the walls of the vessel itself with subsequent optimum cold transmission, though allowing an easy removal of the vessel from the ice-cream machine body when the steps of ice-cream formation are over.

The features of the ice-cream machine according to the invention are now described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the ice-cream machine and of the vessel in position of reciprocal presentation and

1 with the vessel container in evidence;

- Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the ice-cream machine of figure 1 with the vessel housed in the ice-cream machine body;

5 - Fig. 3 is a front cross-sectional view of the parts forming the side walls of the vessel container.

With reference to the aforementioned figures, the ice-cream machine according to the invention comprises a body 1 where a space 2 is provided having a circular section and vertical axis in which a coaxial shaft 3 controlling the rotations of a mixer (not shown) is positioned.

10 The space 2 can house in a movable way a vessel 4 provided with a bushing 5 which coaxially receives the shaft 3. The space 2 and the vessel 4 of the ice-cream machine have a cylindrical or truncated-cone configuration with its cone turned downwards.

15 The side walls of the space 2 are formed by two elements 6 made of aluminium or other material having good thermal conductivity and define a container 10 for proper housing of the vessel 4.

20 One of the elements 6 is fixed to the ice-cream machine body, while the other element 6 is hinged to the fixed elements 6 or to the ice-cream machine body itself.

The ends of the elements 6 opposite to the hinge 8 can be fastened to one another by means of a handle 7.

25 In this way the internal diameter of the vessel container 10 can be varied by rotating the moving element 6 around the hinge 8. The variations of the internal diameter of the container 10 of the vessel 4 can be of small entity, in that they must simply allow the detachment of the container 10 walls from the side walls of the vessel 4 to facilitate the removal of same from the ice-cream machine body. Furthermore, the internal

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1 diameter of the container 10 is slightly lower than the external
diameter of the vessel 4 so that the handle 7 exerts an elastic
action to reciprocally approach the elements 6 in order to press
them tightly against the side walls of the vessel to reduce to
the utmost the hollow spaces between the vessel and the container,
5 with subsequent limitation of the formation of ice layer.

Inside each element 6 there is a portion of the evaporator
coil 9 of the refrigerating circuit of the ice-cream machine;
said coil portion can be buried in the aluminium forming the
element 6 itself or, in case the element 6 is formed by two half
10 shells coupled to one another, it can be housed in suitable seat
provided on one or both the half shells, the hollow spaces bet-
ween the half shells and between the coil and the half shells
being filled with paste having high thermal conductivity.

Not to hinder the though slight rotations of the moving
15 element 6, the coil 9 goes in and out of each element 6 in cor-
respondence with the hinge 8.

The vessel 4 presents two handles 11 in correspondence to
its upper edge by means of which it can be seized and removed
from the ice-cream machine body.

20 Though an ice-cream machine in which the vessel container
consists of two parts hinged to one another has been described and
illustrated up to now, said container can also be formed by se-
veral different parts, each bearing a portion of the evaporator
coil, for instance welded on its external part, said parts having
the possibility of being removed the ones from the others to fa-
25 cilitate the introduction and removal of the vessel from the
ice-cream machine body and of being placed in close contact with
the external side walls of the vessel thanks to the elastic ac-
tion of the spring.

30 The bottom wall of the space 2 can be placed under condi-

- 6 -

1 tions of thermal exchange with the evaporator coil of the
refrigerating circuit and/or with an electric resistor, ac-
cording to a well known technique.

It is to be understood that many changes and modifications
can be made to the abovestated embodiment without departing
, from the spirit and scope of the invention.

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CLAIMS

1- An ice-cream machine for family use with a vessel removable from the ice-cream machine body, wherein the side walls of a vessel container are formed by at least two different parts, each one comprising a portion of the evaporator coil of the refrigerating circuit and wherein said different parts are kept in close contact with the side walls of the vessel by means of elastic means which can be loosened.

2- An ice-cream machine according to claim 1, wherein each part forming the vessel container is formed by an element made of aluminium or other material having high thermal conductivity, in which a portion of the evaporator coil is buried.

3- An ice-cream machine according to claim 1, wherein each part forming the vessel container is constituted by the reciprocal coupling of two half shells made of aluminium or other material having high thermal conductivity, a portion of the evaporator coil being placed between said half shells.

4- An ice-cream machine according to claim 3, wherein the internal side wall of each of said half shells presents a seat capable of housing the corresponding portion of coil, the hollow spaces between the half shells and between the coil and the half shells being filled with paste having high thermal conductivity.

5- An ice-cream machine according to claim 2, wherein the said walls of the vessel container are formed by two elements hinged to one another at one end and fastened to one another at the opposite end by means of an elastic clamp, the vessel being blocked between said two elements thanks to the elastic action exerted by said clamp.

6- An ice-cream machine according to claim 5 wherein

1 2 one of said elements is fixed to the ice-cream machine body.

1 7- An ice-cream machine according to claim 5 wherein the
2 coil goes in and out of each element near the end hinged to the
3 other element.

1 8- An ice-cream machine according to claim 1, wherein the ves-
' 2 sel and its container have a truncated cone shape with the
3 cone turned downwards.

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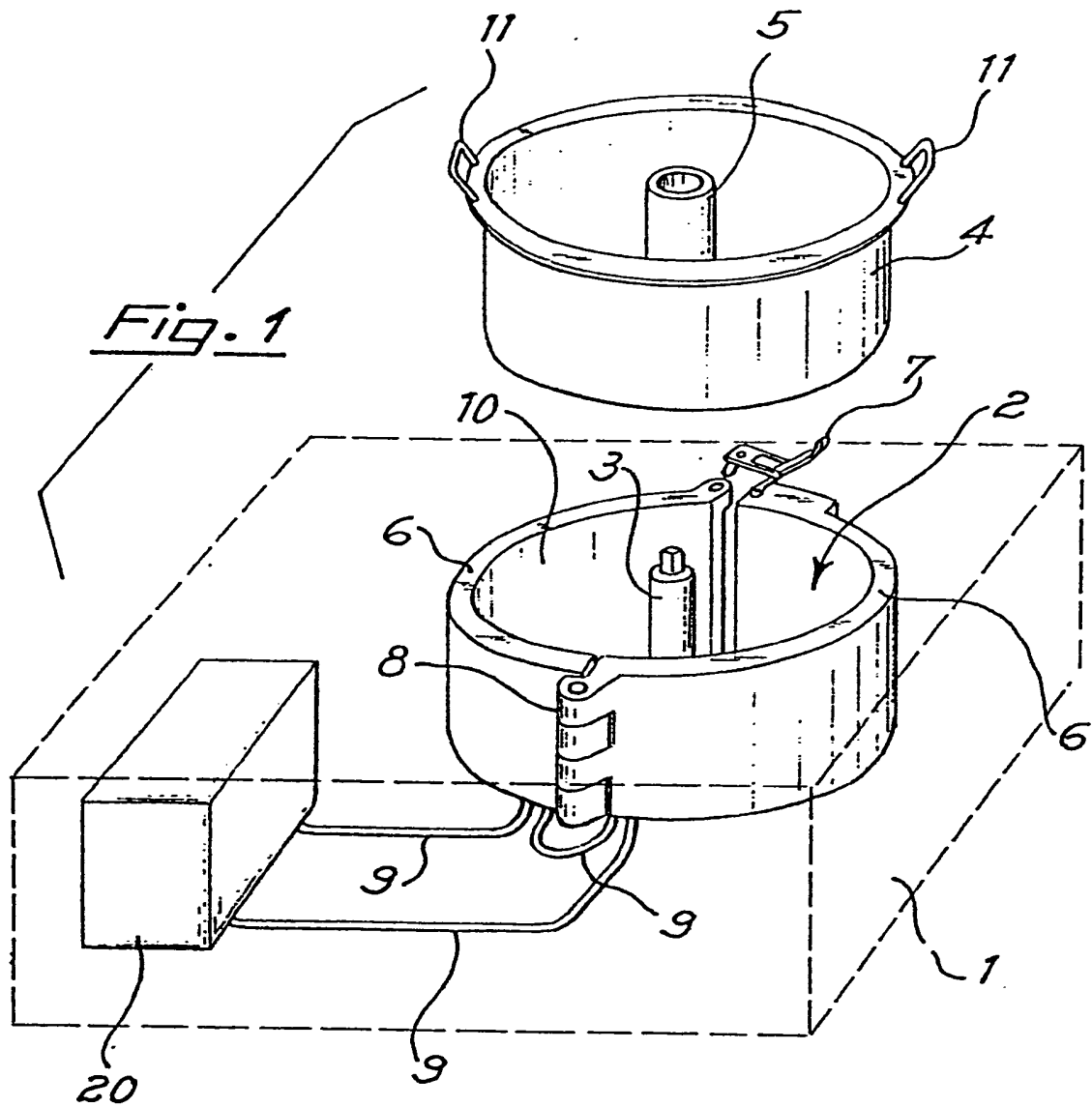
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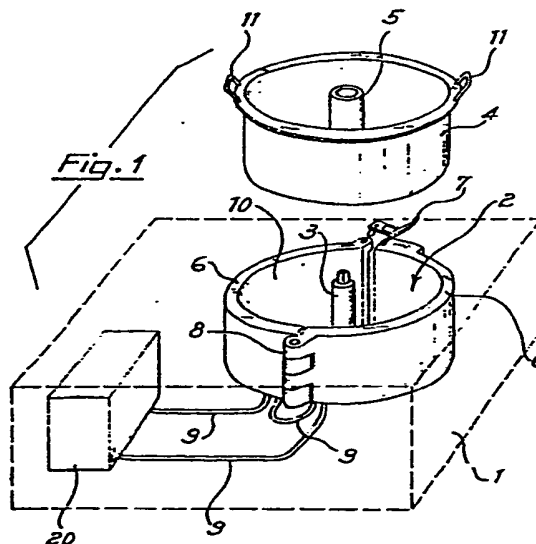
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0129706

Application number

EP 84 10 5735

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
X	US-A-3 452 555 (M.E. THURMAN et al.) * Figures 3-5; column 4, lines 20-75; figures 6,7; column 5, line 62 - column 6, line 35 *	1,3,5-8	A 23 G 9/12
Y		2,4	
Y	FR-A- 636 120 (R. SAMESREUTHER) * Figures 1,2; pages 1,2 *	2	
Y	FR-A-1 369 057 (THERMO EQUIPMENT CORP.) * Figures 1-3; pages 1-4 *	4	
A	US-A-4 213 498 (B.E. VANDENBOSSCHE)		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
A	FR-A-1 478 113 (DEAN PRODUCTS)		A 23 G F 28 F F 25 D F 28 D
A	FR-A-1 537 203 (GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY)		
A	FR-A-2 237 156 (L. MONTAGNE et al.)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 31-07-1985	Examiner GUYON R.H.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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Page 2

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
A	GB-A-1 445 841 (R.W. PLASTICS & ENGINEERING)		

A	DE-A-2 012 551 (HEINZ)		

A,P	GB-A-2 119 910 (CALUM GRANT)		

E	GB-A-2 135 037 (A. CAVALLI) * Figures 1,2; page 1, lines 25-26; pages 2,3 *	1,3,5-8	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 31-07-1985	Examiner GUYON R.H.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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